

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A washing machine, including a drum having an axis of rotation in a direction crossing a vertical direction and a water tank surrounding said drum, comprising:

5 a water level detecting unit detecting level of water in said water tank; and  
a control portion operating said washing machine for washing; wherein  
when said operation for washing is completed, said control portion causes said  
water level detecting unit to detect water level in said water tank only for a prescribed  
time period, and thereafter power supply to said control portion is turned off.

2. The washing machine according to claim 1, further comprising  
a water feed unit for feeding water to said water tank; wherein  
said prescribed time period is set in accordance with a time period calculated  
from a minimum flow rate of water fed from said water feed unit and a smallest amount  
5 of water detectable by said water level detecting unit.

3. A washing machine, including a drum having an axis of rotation in a  
direction crossing a vertical direction and a water tank surrounding said drum; wherein  
said water tank has an opening in a plane crossing said axis of rotation;  
said washing machine comprising:  
5 a door opening and closing said opening of said water tank;  
a water feed unit for feeding water to said water tank;  
a water leakage detecting unit monitoring water leakage at said water feed unit;  
and  
a control portion operating said washing machine for washing; wherein  
10 when said operation for washing is completed, said control portion causes said  
leakage detecting unit to monitor water leakage at said water feed unit only for a

prescribed time period, and thereafter power supply to said control portion is turned off.

4. The washing machine according to claim 3, wherein  
said water leakage detecting unit detects water level in said water tank; and  
said prescribed time period is set in accordance with a time period calculated  
from a minimum flow rate of water fed from said water feed unit and a smallest amount  
5 of water detectable by said water leakage detecting unit.

5. The washing machine according to claim 3, further comprising  
a lock unit for preventing opening of said door; wherein  
said control portion causes said lock unit to lock said door when said leakage  
detecting unit detects water leakage at said water feed unit.

6. The washing machine according to claim 5, further comprising:  
a drainage unit draining water in said water tank; and  
a lock detecting unit detecting whether said door is locked by said lock unit or  
not; wherein  
5 when said water leakage detecting unit detects a water leakage at said water  
feed unit, said lock unit is activated not to open said door and said lock detecting unit  
detects that said door is not locked, said control portion causes said drainage unit to  
drain off the water in said water tank.

7. The washing machine according to claim 6, wherein  
when said lock unit is caused to lock said door and said lock detecting unit  
detects that said door is not locked, said control portion notifies that said door is not  
locked.

8. A washing machine including a drum having an axis of rotation in a

direction crossing a vertical direction and a water tank surrounding said drum; wherein  
said water tank has an opening in a plane crossing said axis of rotation;  
said washing machine comprising:

- 5 a water level detecting unit detecting water level in said water tank;  
a door opening and closing said opening of said water tank;  
a lock unit for locking said door; and  
a control portion operating said washing machine for washing; wherein  
when said operation for washing is completed, said control portion causes said  
10 water level detecting unit to detect water level in said water tank only for a prescribed  
time period, and when said water level detecting unit detects a water level not lower  
than a first water level as a lowest water level detectable by said water level detecting  
unit, causes said lock unit to lock said door, and when said water level detecting unit  
does not detect a water level not lower than said first water level, power supply to said  
15 control portion is turned off.

9. The washing machine according to claim 8, further comprising  
a water feed unit for feeding water to said water tank; wherein  
said prescribed time period is set in accordance with a time period calculated  
from a minimum flow rate of water fed from said water feed unit and a smallest amount  
5 of water detectable by said water level detecting unit.

10. The washing machine according to claim 8, wherein  
when said operation for washing is completed, said control portion causes said  
lock unit to unlock said door.

11. The washing machine according to claim 8, further comprising:  
a drainage unit draining water in said water tank; and  
a lock detecting unit detecting whether said door is locked by said lock unit or

not; wherein

- 5           when said water level detecting unit detects a water level not lower than said first water level after the completion of said operation for washing and said lock detecting unit detects that said door is not locked by said lock unit, said control portion causes said drainage unit to drain off the water in said water tank.

12. The washing machine according to claim 11, wherein  
when said lock unit is caused to lock said door and said lock detecting unit detects that said door is not locked, said control portion notifies that said door is not locked.

13. The washing machine according to claim 8, further comprising  
a drainage unit for draining off the water in said water tank; wherein  
after completion of said operation for washing, when said water level detecting unit detects a water level not lower than a second water level higher than said first water  
5 level, said control portion causes said drainage unit to drain off the water in said water tank.

14. The washing machine according to claim 13, wherein  
said second water level is positioned lower than a lowermost plane of said opening of said water tank.